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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - LEBANON - SYRIAN PULLOUT EU  
ISSUES: CHINESE TEXTILES WAR AGAINST TERROR - MOUSSAOUI TRIAL  
PARIS - TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

1. LEBANON - SYRIAN PULLOUT
2. EU ISSUES: CHINESE TEXTILES
3. WAR AGAINST TERROR - MOUSSAOUI TRIAL

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

THE EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION AND THE EUROPEAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY'S  
PLIGHT IN THE FACE OF CHINESE EXPORTS ARE TODAY'S MAJOR FRONT-  
PAGE STORIES. LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION HEADLINES "CHINESE  
TEXTILES: WHEN EUROPE FINALLY WAKES UP." AND EDITORIALIST  
PATRICK SABATIER CLEARLY FAULTS THE EUROPEANS FOR NOT BEING  
PREPARED TO DEAL WITH A SITUATION THEY KNEW WAS COMING. (SEE  
PART C)

TWO POLLS ON THE EU CONSTITUTION MAKE TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.  
RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO HEADLINES "THE 'YES' RISES THANKS TO  
THE RIGHT." ACCORDING TO LE FIGARO'S LATEST POLL, THE 'NO'  
DROPS FROM 55 TO 52 PERCENT, AND THE 'YES' GAINS, FROM 45 TO  
48 PERCENT. CATHOLIC LA CROIX CARRIES A POLL ON VOTER  
INTENTION AMONG CATHOLICS: 53 PERCENT OF PRACTICING CATHOLICS  
SAY THEY WILL SUPPORT THE EU CONSTITUTION, BUT AMONG NON-  
PRACTICING CATHOLICS THE 'NO' LEADS.

SYRIA'S PULLOUT FROM LEBANON IS ANALYZED IN LEFT-OF-CENTER  
LIBERATION, WITH AN EDITORIAL COMMENTARY BY GERARD DUPUY WHO  
WRITES: "DAMASCUS HAS FINALLY GIVEN IN TO U.S. PRESSURE. NOW  
THE LEBANESE ARE FACE TO FACE WITH THEMSELVES AND HAVE NO  
LONGER A PRETEXT TO CONTINUE TO DO NOTHING." (SEE PART C)

THERE ARE SEVERAL REPORTS ON MOUSSAOUI'S GUILTY PLEA. IN  
POPULAR RIGHT-OF-CENTER FRANCE SOIR MARIE NOSSEREAU TITLES HER  
ARTICLE: "IS MOUSSAOUI GOING TO DIE?" HIS MOTHER'S APPEAL IS  
NOTED AS WELL AS HIS FRENCH LAWYERS' CALL ON THE FRENCH  
FOREIGN MINISTER TO INTERVENE. REGIONAL L'INDEPENDENT DEVOTES  
ITS EDITORIAL TO MOUSSAOUI'S PLEA. EDITORIALIST BERNARD REVEL  
WONDERS ABOUT MOUSSAOUI'S STATE OF MIND AFTER FOUR YEARS IN  
SOLITARY CONFINEMENT. (SEE PART C)

SECRETARY OF STATE RICE'S TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA IS NOTED IN LE

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FIGARO, WHICH TITLES: "BUSH WANTS TO BYPASS CHAVEZ, THE  
OBSTACLE." IN HIS REPORT PHILIPPE GELIE COMMENTS: "IN MILITARY  
TERMS, THE MANEUVER IS ONE OF ENCIRCLEMENT. SECRETARY RICE'S  
LATIN AMERICAN TOUR INCLUDES FOUR NATIONS THAT ENCIRCLE WHAT  
IS A MAIN AMERICAN PREOCCUPATION, BUT WHICH IS NOT INCLUDED IN  
THE OFFICIAL PROGRAM: CHAVEZ'S VENEZUELA. THE STRATEGY IS ONE  
OF 'CONTAINMENT AND ISOLATION' OF THE LATIN AMERICAN BLACK  
SHEEP."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

LEBANON - SYRIAN PULLOUT

"A NEW START"

GERARD DUPUY IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (04/26): "THE ASSAD  
DYNASTY HAS BASED ITS INFLUENCE, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE, ON  
THE UNSCRUPULOUS USE OF POWER. BUT THE SYSTEM HAS BROKEN DOWN:  
CAUGHT IN AN ECONOMIC SEMI-QUAGMIRE, CONCERNED ABOUT ITS  
KURDISH MINORITY'S AWAKENING, DESTABILIZED SINCE SADDAM  
HUSSEIN'S FALL AND IRAQ'S OUTLINE FOR DEMOCRACY, DAMASCUS HAS  
FINALLY REACTED TO PRESSURE FROM AMERICA, BELATEDLY HELPED BY  
FRANCE. THE LEBANESE OPPOSITION IS UNITED IN ITS REJECTION OF  
SYRIA, BUT HAS NO UNIFIED PLANS. THE COUNTRY IS IN DIRE NEED  
OF NEW INSTITUTIONS IF IT HOPES TO GET A NEW START WITH  
LASTING RESULTS. WITH THEIR DEPARTURE, THE SYRIANS ARE LEAVING  
BEHIND MANY HIDDEN LANDMINES AND UNCERTAINTIES. BUT NOW THE  
LEBANESE ARE FACE TO FACE WITH THEMSELVES AND HAVE NO LONGER A  
PRETEXT TO CONTINUE TO DO NOTHING."

EU ISSUES: CHINESE TEXTILES

"THE EUROPEANS' FAULT"

PATRICK SABATIER IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (04/26): "IF

FRANCE'S PROTECTIONIST REACTION TO CHINESE TEXTILE EXPORTS IS THE GOVERNMENT'S WAY TO SAVE THE EU CONSTITUTION, THE MEASURE IS BOTH WRONG AND DANGEROUS. BEIJING'S WTO MEMBERSHIP WAS A STRATEGIC DECISION TAKEN KNOWINGLY BY THE WEST, AS TO THE IMPACT OF A NEW ECONOMIC AND MILITARY POWER ARRIVING ON THE SCENE. THE FACT REMAINS THAT CHINA'S DEVELOPMENT IS THE BEST GUARANTEE FOR PEACE AND LASTING DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA. AND THIS BENEFITS ALL. WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SELL AIRBUSES TO CHINA IF WE DO NOT BUY SHIRTS `MADE IN CHINA.' EUROPE'S AND FRANCE'S MISTAKE IS NOT THAT THEY ARE DOING TOO LITTLE TODAY. IT IS THAT THEY DID NOT PREPARE ADEQUATELY YESTERDAY FOR TODAY'S INTRUSION OF THE CHINESE ELEPHANT IN EUROPE'S CLOTHING STORES TO PROTECT THEIR EMPLOYEES."

#### WAR AGAINST TERROR - MOUSSAOUI TRIAL

##### "THE MOUSSAOUI ENIGMA"

BERNARD REVEL IN REGIONAL L'INDEPENDANT (04/26): "THE LAW CANNOT RESOLVE ENIGMAS. IT NEEDS FACT. BY PLEADING GUILTY MOUSSAOUI HAS GIVEN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM AN UN-HOPED FOR HELPING HAND. THE FACT THAT A JURY WILL DECIDE ON THE DEATH PENALTY FOR MOUSSAOUI IN VIRGINIA, ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST CONSERVATIVE STATES, LEAVES NO DOUBT AS TO THE OUTCOME. MOUSSAOUI'S ATTITUDE DOES NOT PLEAD IN HIS FAVOR. HE HAS MADE HIS LAWYERS' TASK IMPOSSIBLE. BUT CAN ONE EXPECT A MAN WHO HAS BEEN IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT FOR ALMOST FOUR YEARS TO ACT RATIONALLY? THIS IS ALSO PART OF THE MOUSSAOUI ENIGMA."

##### "IS MOUSSAOUI GOING TO DIE?"

MARIE NOSSEREAU IN POPULAR RIGHT-OF-CENTER FRANCE SOIR (04/26): "MOUSSAOUI HAS JUST HELPED THOSE WHO WANT HIM DEAD. HE COULD HAVE PLEA-BARGAINED, `BUT THAT IS NOT THE SOLUTION HE HAS CHOSEN,' SAYS HIS FRENCH LAWYER. HIS MOTHER SAYS SHE NO LONGER RECOGNIZES HER OWN SON. `HE HAS DECIDED TO GET IT OVER WITH, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER' SHE SAYS. CAN FRANCE SAVE MOUSSAOUI FROM THE DEATH PENALTY? YESTERDAY, FM BARNIER THOUGHT IT USEFUL TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING CLARIFICATION: `THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES CANNOT INTERVENE IN A JUDICIAL PROCESS, WHETHER IN FRANCE OR ABROAD.' BUT HIS LAWYER CONTESTS THIS ARGUMENT: `IF WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A TRIAL, I CAN ACCEPT THE ARGUMENT. BUT WHEN IT IS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HIMSELF, A POLITICIAN, WHO ASKS FOR THE DEATH PENALTY, I EXPECT HIS FRENCH COUNTERPART TO REACT. FOR THE TIME BEING THERE IS ONLY SILENCE.'" WOLFF